

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Red River Supply Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep  
Final Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VIII

**Subject:** **POLREP #3**  
**Final**  
**Red River Supply Warehouse Fire**

**Williston, ND**  
**Latitude: 48.1461260 Longitude: -103.6030171**

**To:** Kerry Guy, EPA  
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Jason Callahan, CTEH  
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**From:** Paul Peronard, OSC

**Date:** 10/1/2014

**Reporting Period:** 09/01/2014 to 10/01/2014

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>		<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/22/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/22/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>	9/3/2014	<b>Completion Date:</b>	10/1/2014
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	NDN0008157	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

### 1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 9 a.m. on July 22, EPA Region 8 emergency response program received notice from the North Dakota Department of Public Health of a major chemical fire involving the Red River Supply warehouse in Williston, North Dakota (site). The chemical fire started at approximately 1 a.m. that morning and had been burning intensely since. Concerns at the site included public exposure to the smoke plume, contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the the Little Muddy River and the Missouri River. Due to the nature of the fire, which involved significant quantities of chemicals, the local fire department attending the fire decided to let the fire burn itself out with minimal use of water for fire suppression. The city put out an advisory for residents within one half-mile of the site to either evacuate or shelter in place. The phone duty EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discussed

emergency air monitoring needs with the health department.

The 81<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team was en route to assist in air monitoring at the time. At approximately 10 a.m., OSC Paul Peronard was deployed to the site to provide additional emergency air monitoring equipment and assistance.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

Red River Supply (<http://www.redriversupply.us/>) is located at 1202 East Broadway, Williston, ND. The facility is on the southeast side of Williston in an industrial area. Residential areas are located approximately one half to three quarters of a mile to the northwest of the site. The Red River Supply facility provides products and materials for the Bakken play oil field. The MSDS for the materials stored at the warehouse was provided to the North Dakota Department of Health and EPA by Red River Supply (see document “Red River Supply MSDS” ). Quantities of these materials stored at the time of the fire were later provided to the agencies as well (see document “RRS msds inventory”.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Threats to human health and the environment at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume (chemicals and particulates) , contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the the Little Muddy River immedietly to the east and the Missouri River just to the south. Stormwater from the site drains to the main storm drainage canal that borders the site on the east side. The canal drains city storm water as well as treated waste water from Williston's waste water treatment lagoons.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

OSC Paul Peronard along with four START personnel arrived at the site at approximately 9:30 pm on July 22 and transitioned into air monitoring at approximately 10:30 pm. While en route to the site, a phone conference was held with North Dakota Department of Public Health personnel, EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT), and the OSC. The parties reviewed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals inside the facility to determine likely combustion gases that would pose a public health concern. The

combustion products anticipated included carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitric oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, chlorine, and ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. Based on the MSDS information and the location of residential areas-- over one-half mile from the site, EPA ERT indicated emission of particulate matter would be the main concern regarding public exposure from the fire.

EPA responders set up and ran several particulate monitors outside the perimeter boundary and conducted combustion gas monitoring along the perimeter. EPA monitored conditions throughout Tuesday night and through Wednesday (July 23). Emission gas monitoring showed no measurable levels of combustion products at the site perimeter. Particulate monitoring around the perimeter showed elevated levels which dropped steadily throughout Tuesday night. The state's air monitoring station located in a residential area a little over half a mile to the northwest from the site, indicated minor to moderate levels of particulates. See air monitoring results on the site map. By Wednesday morning the fire was mostly out with ongoing smoldering and occasional flare-ups.

On Wednesday morning, July 23, the Williston Fire Chief, North Dakota Department Public Health, Williston County Health, Red River Supply environmental contractors (Garner Environmental) and EPA's OSC met to assess the site situation and discuss next steps.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

All incident action plans for the site have been added to the EPA OSC web site. The site was released for clean-up operations by the city Fire Marshall on August 27, 2014.. The adjacent roads to the site have been opened up for traffic. The city canal system has been opened with all earthen and sandbag berms and plugged culverts removed. Fire suppression operations are no longer needed, and the only remaining tasks are to complete final waste transportation and disposal, which will be overseen by the State of North Dakota.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

As a result of fire suppression operations, a copious amount of contaminated fire water was generated. The majority of this was contained on-site and collected in frac tanks. However, some of the contaminated water breached containment berms and entered the Little Muddy Relief Channel (the "Canal"). The contaminated water dropped the dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Canal quite severely, resulting in some fish kills. Aerators and pumps were used to raise the DO and to strip contaminants from the water. These efforts were judged to be successful and the systems shut off. Subsequent monitoring showed that DO levels remained satisfactory, and all water controls and treatment systems have been removed.

The burned and damaged buildings and debris have been removed and staged for either recycling or disposal. In addition, the building pads and contaminated soil have also been removed and staged for off-site shipment. The responsible party (RP), in coordination with the State of North Dakota has been identifying approved disposal/reclamation locations and begun off-site shipments. This will be overseen by North Dakota.

#### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

None.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

EPA involvement with the site is no longer needed. The State of North Dakota is monitoring the RP's progress.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

None.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

None.

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

None.

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City of Williston, Williston Volunteer Fire Department  
North Dakota Department of Public Health  
Williams County Health Department  
US Fish and Wildlife  
Corps of Engineers  
4 EPA START Personnel  
EPA OSC Paul Peronard  
Garner Environmental  
CTEH-sub to Garner

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.